



# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual NDIA Symposium and Exhibition

## **Transformation Challenges for U.S. Military Forces in the War Against Illicit Drugs**

12 February 2003

Moderated by:

Col. Kenneth J. Alnwick, USAF (Ret.)  
& Col. David Winn, USMC (Ret.)



# Agenda

- Genesis of the Panel
- The Threat: the DEA Perspective
- NGB Counterdrug Symposium: Blue Lightning
- NGB Counterdrug Operations
- Southern Command Counter Drug Operations
- A Civilian Perspective on the War on Drugs
- Contract Operations in Colombia



## Third Annual NGB-CD Technologies Symposium and War Game



# Operation Blue Lightning

22-23 July 2002

**Sponsored by:**  
**NGB-CD &**  
**DoD CDTDPO**



**Presented by:**  
**CD-GRASS**





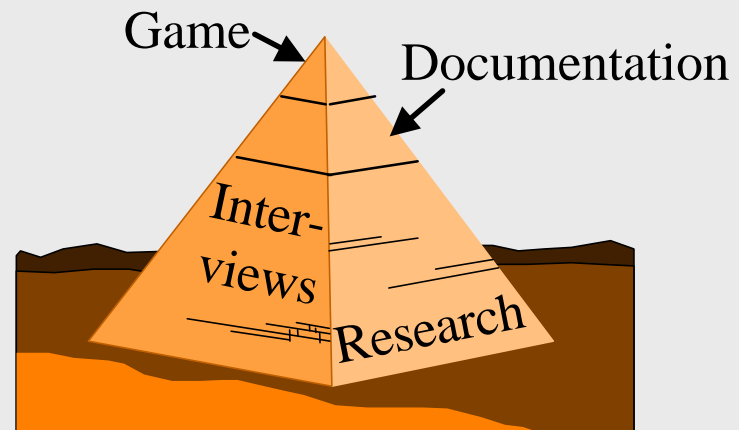
# Symposium Objectives

- Enhance participants awareness of the impact of technology on the counterdrug mission
- Inform participants of current and future CD capabilities available to them
- Demonstrate CD planning and operational **skills** in a dynamic, fault-free, interactive environment (the **BLUE LIGHTNING** war game)



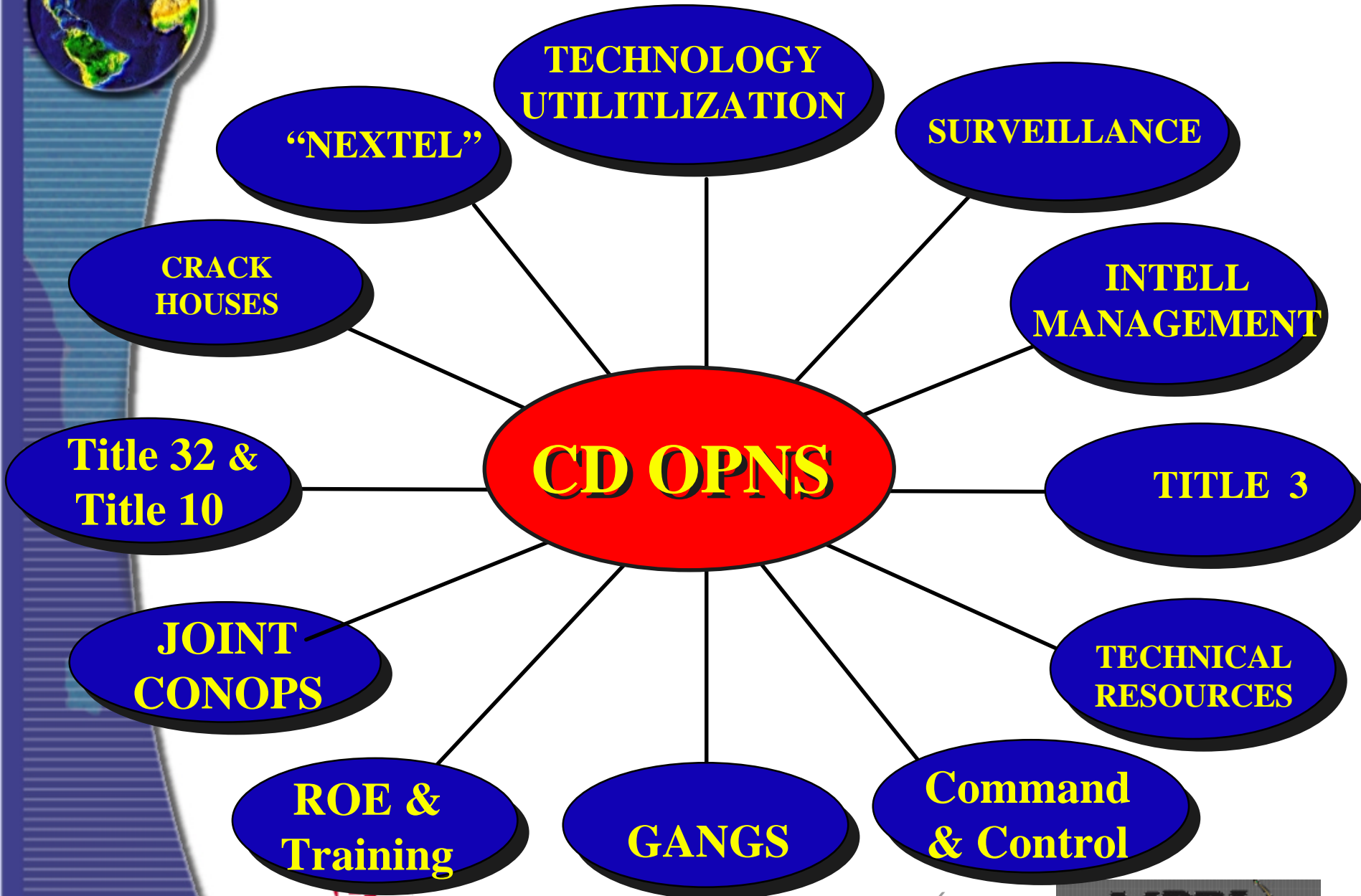
# Game Design and Execution

- Technology-oriented
- Issue-based, open, modified, seminar war game
- Thoroughly researched and documented
- Scenario, cues and focused questions advance course of game play
- Player roles as in real world and as members of the Committee of the Whole
- Relies upon player intellectual curiosity and willingness to participate in discussion





# BLUE LIGHTNING ISSUES



# THE SCENARIO

## Operation BLUE LIGHTNING





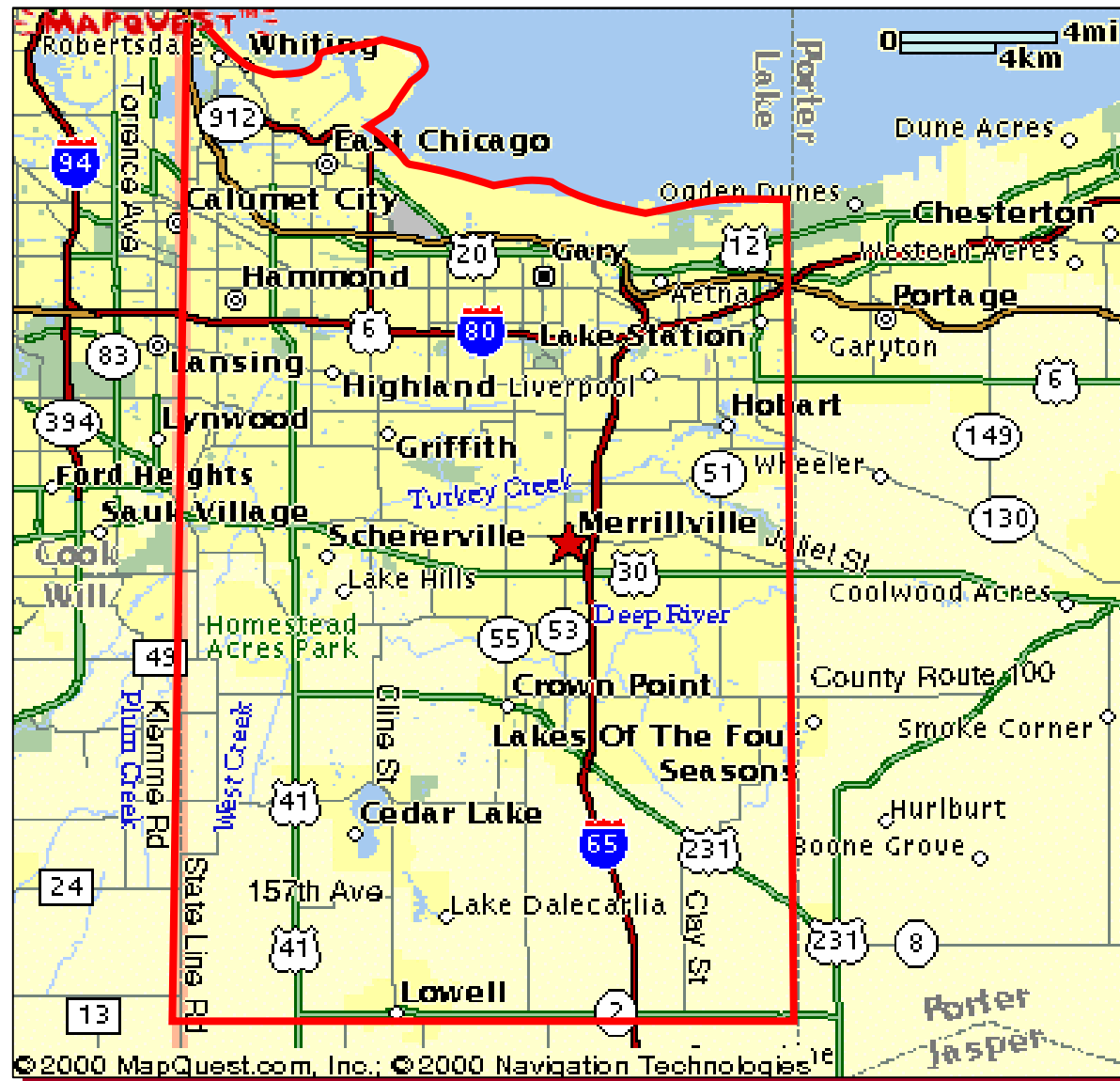
# Global Perspective: July 2003

- Promise of the New Millennium shattered by 9/11
- War on Drugs overshadowed by concerns about terrorism, e.g. resources redirected
  - But threat still remains
- Cocaine supplies shrink, but methamphetamine trade is flourishing.
- Marijuana use again on the rise, while the use of designer drugs and prescription drugs like OxyContin continue to entrap the most susceptible.
- New awareness of linkages between drugs and terrorists potentially beneficial





# Lake County, Indiana







# Crack house showing “West Side Killers” tag, Gary, Indiana





# Teen age boys buying OxyContin script on Broadway in Gary, Indiana





# Th

- F.B.I. – Gary Response Investigative Team (GRIT)
- Lake County – High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)



# Gangs, Drugs & Violence

- Affect Nearly Every Community in the Region
- No City is Immune, Some Simply Unaware / Ignore
- Most Prevalent in Urban / Inner-City Settings
  - East Chicago
  - Hammond
  - Gary



# Gangs & Drugs in North Indiana

- Chicago serves as source of supply to drug trafficking operations (DTO's) in Northwest Indiana
- Inner-City Environment Supports Development of Gangs
- Gangs Financial Support Primarily Derived From Sales of Drugs
- Abundant Demand to Purchase Drugs



# Drugs of Ch

- Crack Cocaine
  - Highly Addictive
  - Easily Manufactured From Cocaine
  - Overwhelming Drug of Choice
- Heroin
- Marijuana
- Designer/Synthetic Drugs
- Methamphetamine on the Way



# Wh

- Every Social / Income Class
- Average Range in Age from 18 – 40
- Customer Base Represented by every community in the Region
- Repeat Offenders / Users with Lengthy Drug History
  - Repeated rehabilitation efforts
  - Lack of Available Treatment
  - Family Support Exhausted
  - Involved in Criminal Activity to Support Habit
  - Become Victims of Violent Crime Related to Drug Trade



# Wh

- Mainly Lower Income Background
- Lack of Formal Education
- Dysfunctional Family Setting
- Lack of Positive Role Models
- Late Teens to Early Thirties
- Unemployed / Part Time Sporadic
- View Present Situation as Helpless / Hopeless
- Nearly All Sellers in Urban Setting Claim Gang Affiliation



# Gary Crime

- Homicides
  - 1990 to 1996 – Total of 627 Homicides  
.....88.1 Average
    - Increase in Drug / Gang Connection
    - Estimates as High as 70-80% Involvement
    - Gang Development on the Rise
    - Youth Involvement in Violent Crime on the Rise



# National Institute of Justice

- 1985 to 2001 Rate of Homicide by Young People Doubled
- Increase linked to Recruitment of Juveniles in DTO's
- Surge in Violent Juvenile Crime Coincided with Drug Arrest Increase
- Juveniles recruited to sell drugs Armed Themselves for Protection
- Disputes Once Settled by fist fights often escalated to shooting Incidents
- Juveniles Use Firearms More Randomly Than Adults



# Gary, Indiana

- 54 Square Miles
- Population
  - 1980 - 152,000
  - 1990 - 116,646
  - Present - Approximately 110,000
- Retail Trade
  - 1982 - \$371 Million
  - 1992 - \$301 Million
  - Retail Business's Bankrupted or Relocated
- Residential Construction
  - 1990 to 1996 – 33 Building Permits Issued
  - Citizens Relocated
- Crime Rate Climbed – Disproportionate to Size of City



# Crime and Gang Presence Increasing

- Increased Crime Activities in 1990's
- Flight of Citizens, Business and Customer Base
- Reduced Tax Base
- Under Staffed Police Department and City Services
- Continuing Strong Demand for Drugs
- Increased Gang Development for Protection of DTO's
- Easy Access to Firearms
- Crime Increases, Gang Membership grows, Police Overwhelmed



# Gary's Gangs

- 1998 National Street Gang Survey
  - 75 Gangs
  - 890 Members
  - All acting Independently of Each Other
  - Primary Source of Income – Drug Sales
  - Involved in Auto Theft, Car Jacking, Robberies, Money Laundering, Assaults, Home Invasions and Homicides
  - Claim Allegiance to National Groups such as Vice Lords, Black Gangster Disciples and Latin Kings
  - Most Take on Local Brands



# **“THE NATIONS MURDER CAPITAL”**

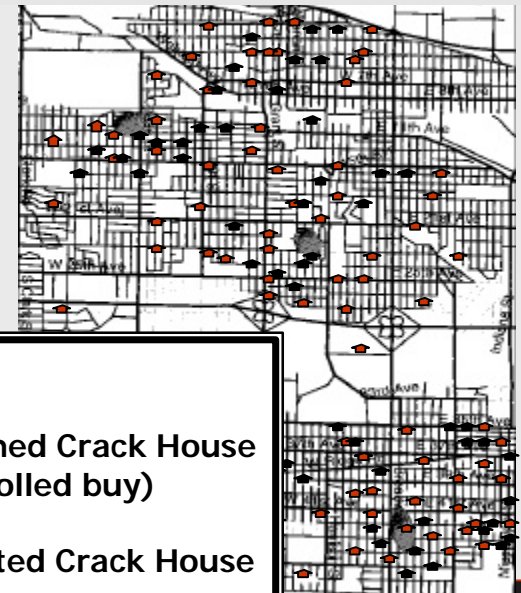
THE GAME

# Operation BLUE U GHTNI NG





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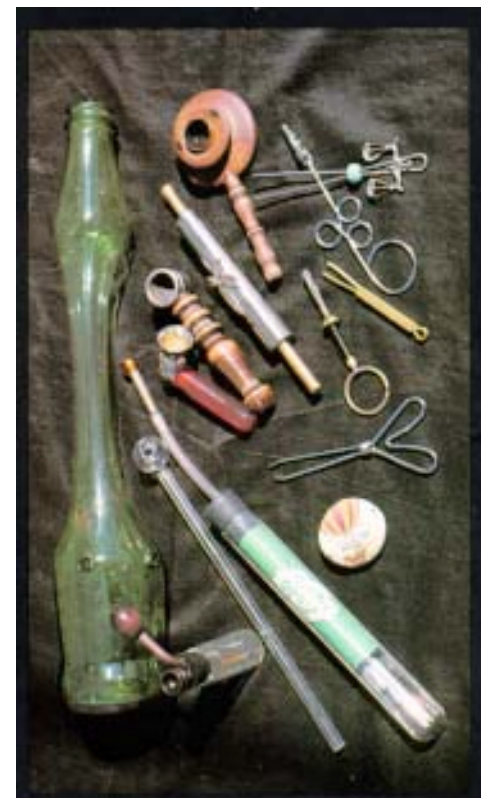


**= Suspected Crack House**



# Drugs

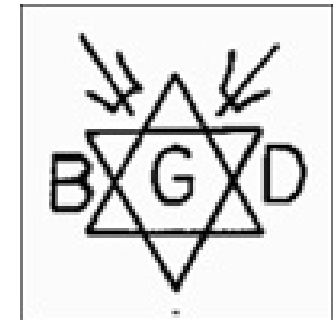
- Lake County: Cross road and transshipment center
- Coke and Marijuana: Greatest threats
  - Coke: most dangerous, gang catalyst
  - MJ: high volume, Mexican DTOs and Canadian connections
- Heroin: Use growing, Mexican DTOs plus Asian sources. Chicago distributors
- Methamphetamine: Most addictive, a tidal wave
  - Mexican/ME/Canadian connections. OMGs returning to trade.
  - Dangerous to users, cops and the environment
- Designer Drugs: Also on the rise / Chicago connections
  - MDMA, LSD, Ketamine
  - OxyContin, other prescription drugs





# Thugs

- Mohammed Kahn/ Mexican DTO/ ME and the Latin Kings Alliance
  - Title III approved
- Alan Furth / Outlaws and Black Gangster Disciples
  - Title III pending
- Harry Collera / Mexican DTO/IRA .. and Vice Lords and People Nation
  - Title III pending
- Chicago Organized Crime
  - Bennie "Tarantula" Vincenti
  - Long-time Gary resident





# Gangs

- Motorcycle gangs
- Street Gangs
- Organized gangs





# Guns

- Permissive laws
- Violent Crimes
- Guns for Drugs





# Task Force Composition

**Task Force Leader (DEA)**  
**Director, DoD Support (CDC)**  
**Technologist (NGB-CD)**  
**Operations Planner Air Ops Coordinator**  
**Intelligence Analyst**  
**Prosecutor (AUSA)**  
**Counter Drug (DEA)**  
**Organized Crime (FBI)**  
**Border Interdiction (USCS/INS/BP)**  
**Weapons Violations (BATF)**

**RCMP LNO**  
**Indiana State Police**  
**Lake County Sheriff Gary PD**  
**Schereville PD**  
**East Chicago PD**  
**Merrillville PD**  
**Crown Point PD**  
**Lowell PD**  
**Hammond PD**  
**Lake Station PD**  
**Hobart PD**  
**Media Rep**



# Special Equipment

<b>M-VACIS</b>	<b>NGB-CD</b>	2 units (unrestricted), 45 days for each
<b>Ion Scanner</b>	<b>NGB-CD</b>	3 units
<b>KVT-10</b>	<b>NGB-CD</b>	4 pairs
<b>Viper Binoculars</b>	<b>NGB-CD</b>	4 sets
<b>MCEDSS</b>	<b>NGB-CD</b>	System installed in NW Indiana investigative support center
<b>DMS</b>	<b>NGB-CD</b>	On-call mapping support
<b>Facial recognition</b>	<b>DoD CD Tech Dev</b>	One test item
<b>Voice recognition</b>	<b>DoD CD Tech Dev</b>	One test item



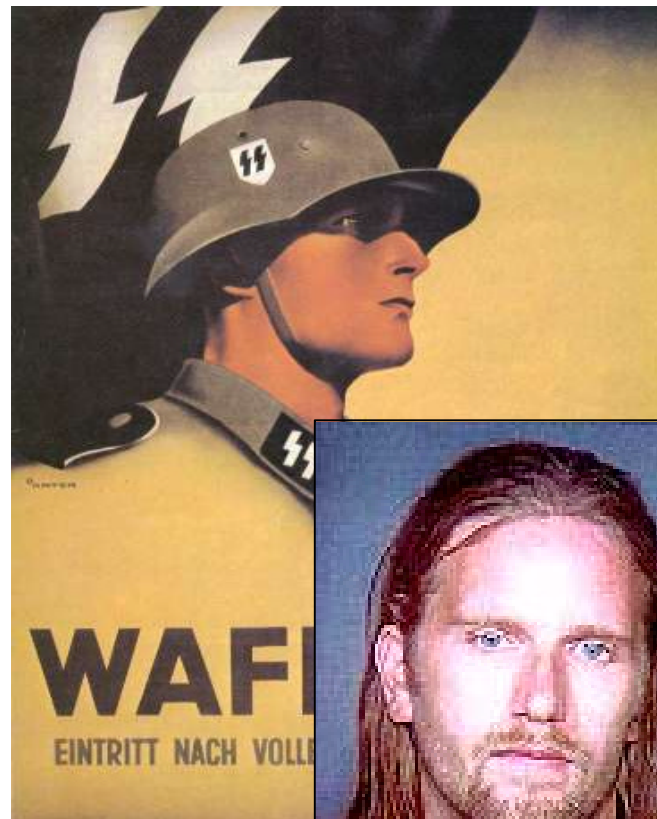
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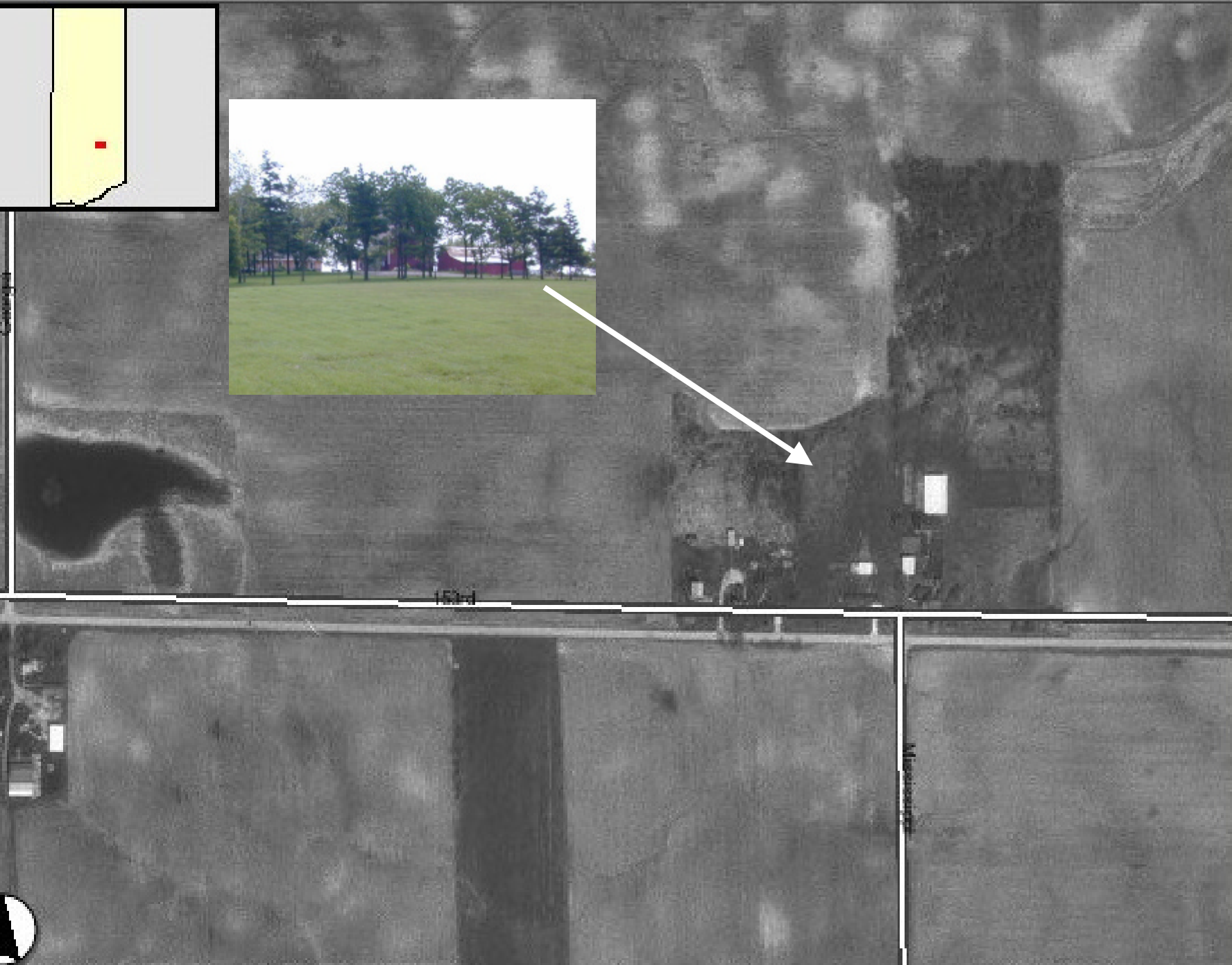
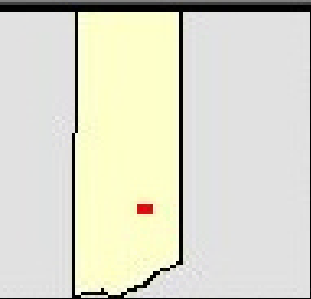
<b>Data Mining Software: License Plate Recognition</b>	<b>DoD CD Tech Dev</b>	Support for one location
<b>Acoustic sensors</b>	<b>DoD CD Tech Dev</b>	Six sensors w/support
<b>Airborne COMINT package</b>	<b>DoD CD Tech Dev</b>	Two variants of the Schwitter pkg. Developed for Colombia
<b>Family of tracking devices</b>	<b>DoD CD Tech Dev</b>	Three test sets (three types)



# Satan's Soldiers: An OMC Puppet Club

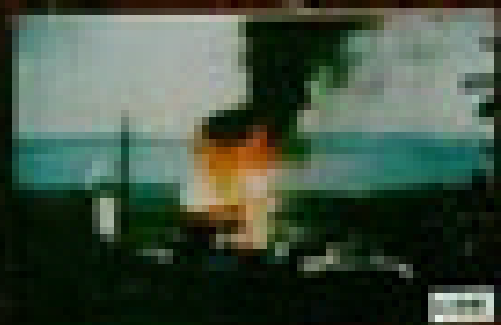
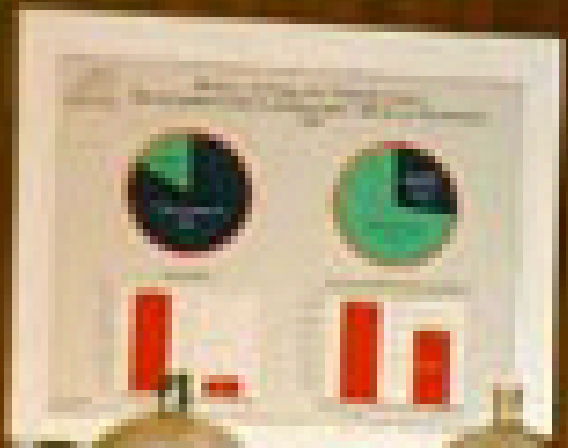
- Group suspected to be key players in Lake county meth trade.
- Recruit former GI's
- Home base Schereville /Crown Point area
- Leader Alan FURTH, former Dragon soldier





Visible A







# BLTF Mission

- Develop and execute a **multi-agency campaign** to help stem the alarming increase in the use of methamphetamine and crack cocaine in Lake County and the surrounding environs.
- Develop options to reduce the proliferation of houses being used for distribution and use of crack cocaine and other illicit drugs and suppress the illegal sale and use of firearms
- Critical mission focus areas will include:
  - **Drug manufacturing laboratories (particularly Meth labs)**
  - **Drug distribution organizations and networks**
  - **"Crack houses" at distribution locations**



# Plan: Task Force Alpha

- Detect and Deter
- Identify and Interdict
  - Suppliers
    - Transportation
    - Gangs and Associates
    - Financial Investigation
    - International Aspects
    - Clandestine Airstrips
  - Technologies of NGB and DoD
  - Military Support Assets



# Plan: Task Force Alpha

- Drug Labs, Organizations, Networks and Crack Houses
  - Intel
  - Operational
- Meth Labs
  - Intel
  - Targets
  - Informants
- Conduct Multi-Tiered Ops
  - Gun Sales and Distribution
  - Crack and Crack Houses
  - Meth Labs and Distribution



# Plan: Task Force Alpha

- Involve Federal, State, County and Local LEA Assets
- Utilize Current CD Technologies of NGB-CD and DoD



# Findings and Observations

- Mapping tools are required in many aspects of CD operations.
- Tracking and technical support were needed in all surveillance exercises.
- Overall air operations use of photo/FLIR/nighttime “moving map”/Kenwood Video, etc. enhances probability of success.
- Ground surveillance enhanced by use of microwave photo sensors/ion scanning, etc.



# Findings and Observations

- **Use of innovative techniques supported efficient operations**
  - **Surreptitious entry search warrants**
  - **Photo-imaging with mapping**
  - **Crime statistics**
  - **Facial recognition**
  - **License plate recognition**
  - **Gang photos-NDIC/gang experts**



# Findings and Observations

- **New technologies need to establish precedent cases.**
- **Title 10 vs. Title 32 – Posse Comitatus**
- **Mom and Pop meth operations require innovative technology solutions.**
- **LEAs need to understand established procedures and requirements to fully utilize NG resources.**



# Findings and Observations

- New imaging technology enhances probability of establishing P.C.
- 5. Where possible, use HIDTA and its associated NG support as a focal point to collate local intelligence and information.
- NG administrative support acts as LEA force multiplier.



# Findings and Observations

- Without community buy-in and cooperation, arrest rates are of limited value. Effective PIO is essential.
- Cross training needs to be considered in TF planning to develop a working awareness of available technologies.
- There can be a powerful synergism between the War on Drugs and Homeland Security



# Operation Crackdown

- Mission
- Organization
  - C2 Cell
  - Intel Cell
  - Demolition Team
  - Recovery Team
- Criteria
- Not on Call



# GAME PAYOFF

- Better mutual understanding of of NGB–LEA technical interfaces & capabilities
- Enhanced familiarity of law enforcement with NGB/DoD support potential
- Unfiltered customer input to the NGB/DoD CD technology developers
- Identification of contemporary CD issues appropriate for further research & investigation
- Safer, healthier, more productive Americans